

Members of the Connecticut Legislature:

I am writing to **OPPOSE HB-5044**.

Some members of this legislature have been pushing hard for the repeal of the religious exemption. Yet they have failed to produce *compelling evidence* of a problem that warrants the removal of a constitutional right. And it absolutely blows my mind that denying a child the right to an education is being presented as the first and only viable option to prevent a hypothetical situation.

The legislature is basing their actions solely on a hypothetical number provided by the CDC. There is no medical emergency and there never has been. How would we even know if banning these kids has been successful? What will the outcome be compared to?

The state is obligated to pursue all possibilities of least restrictive means. What else has been explored? Has the legislature forgotten the emergency policies that already exist?

[Infectious outbreaks](#) occur in fully [vaccinated populations](#). New York State has been seeing outbreaks in schools, despite having removed the religious exemption. The blame cannot be placed on [unvaccinated children](#). [Vaccine failure](#), live virus [shedding](#), waning immunity, and [asymptomatic transmission](#) will always make it impossible to achieve [vaccine-induced](#) herd immunity. Here is a [documented case](#) of a measles outbreak that originated from a person twice vaccinated for it.

While creating discrimination, segregation, and further oppression of the middle and lower classes, schools will carry on, letting sick policies slide, and people will continue giving their kids over the counter meds to suppress symptoms so they can send them to school.

And where will it end? Will the state continuously require every new vaccine on the market? What's next, forced anxiety meds for little kids? Forced anti-psychotics? While my healthy, engaging, grounded kids are excluded and potentially bullied, and a governmental committee manages our relationship with our doctor?

My daughter was in her school play a couple of weeks ago. At the last performance, I became aware that one of the other kids in the play was sick and was taking medication so he would feel well enough to “get through it.” As I listened to other adults joke about “drugging up kids” so they can perform, I was struck by the fact that it will be my healthy daughter who is absent next year if she is no longer allowed to attend school.

Can you imagine if this legislature dedicated the time and resources that are going into this bill to actually helping people have the opportunity to become truly healthy? Why are we so focused on trying to eliminate every virus on the planet, rather than helping our bodies live on the planet?

Have you stopped to consider that, given the alarmingly high rates of chronic disease and disorders in American children, our nation will soon not have enough able-bodied people to fill a military? Mental health issues in our young people are skyrocketing. These are crises. These are issues that should be a focus for concern. Not kicking healthy kids out of school.

I grew up in Connecticut. My whole family is here. My husband is a business owner. My high school aged son has talked about some of the colleges here. But we may be forced to move. I’m not sure what will happen to my kids’ ambitions if the opportunities they have now are all ripped away from them. I haven’t had time to prepare for homeschooling because I have been spending every minute focused on protecting our rights. I do know that from me they will learn to stand by their convictions, to fight for their rights, and to speak the truth, even though it will cost them. And my kids will never, ever need to question whether I did everything I could to stand up for their rights, now and when they become parents. **As you consider whether you will vote to take away our rights, you would be wise to remember that these are your rights, too.**

Thank you.

Meredith Nielson
Cheshire

- [MMR Vaccine Caused Viral Mumps Outbreak on U.S Navy Warship](#)
- [LA Countywide Outbreak Of Whooping Cough Hits Exclusive Harvard-Westlake Hard](#)
- [Medical Affidavit on the NYS Measles Outbreak 2018-2019 from Lawrence B. Palevsky, MD](#)
- [Measles outbreak in a vaccinated school population: epidemiology, chains of transmission and the role of vaccine failures.](#)
- [The Emerging Risks of Live Virus and Virus Vectored Vaccines](#)
- [Acellular pertussis vaccines protect against disease but fail to prevent infection and transmission in a nonhuman primate model.](#)
- [Failure to reach the goal of measles elimination. Apparent paradox of measles infections in immunized persons.](#)
- [Outbreak of Measles Among Persons With Prior Evidence of Immunity, New York City, 2011](#)